

A FREE AND PROSPEROUS AMERICAN AGRICULTURE: Statement by Senator GOLDWATER

In revitalizing our great American agricultural industry, and improving the economic returns America's farmers and ranchers receive, the goal of government should be -- as it is the goal of the Republican Party -- that there be A FREE AND PROSPEROUS AMERICAN AGRICULTURE with a minimum of Federal controls and interference. The Republican Party is the farmer's party. Farmers have in the past supported Republican candidates at every level of government because the GOP has traditionally stood for responsible fiscal policies, a secure peace through preparedness, and at the same time has recognized the very complex and special economic problems facing American farmers.

Our pledge, as Republicans dedicated to the extension of human freedom, is to enhance the farmer's opportunity -- never to restrict it. We will resist all efforts to make the farmer dependent, for his economic survival, upon either compensatory payments by the Federal government or upon the whim of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Throughout history, America's farmers and ranchers have served our country well. Today they outstrip the world in the efficient production of an abundance of the world's finest foods and fibers. Unfortunately, they are caught in a cost-price squeeze that prevents them from obtaining the incomes they deserve. This income situation is worsened by unsound government policies that (1) increase the farmer's cost of doing business; (2) restrict markets both at home and abroad; (3) limit his opportunity to produce efficiently; and (4) depress current market prices, through CCC sales.

As an experienced businessman with lifelong association with farmers and rural people, I am deeply appreciative of their problems. And I pledge sympathetic understanding and action.

Price supports should be designed to help farmers achieve orderly marketing within the framework of our dynamic American market system. Price

support programs should be voluntary and should be established for specific commodities, in order to widen markets, ease production controls, and help achieve increased family incomes.

This Administration's deliberate policy of dumping feed grains at low prices in 1961 and 1962 contributed to overproduction of livestock and a consequent decline in livestock prices. Expanded imports plus ill-conceived international commodity agreements have worsened the situation.

The 1964 Republican Platform provides the framework necessary for the development of agricultural programs that are sound for farmers, consumers, and taxpayers alike.

We shall foster a dynamic economy that will enhance the further development of voluntary farmer-owned business enterprises, and that will encourage all private business in developing expanding services and markets for farmers, as contrasted to government price-fixing and controls.

As stated in the Platform, we pledge the "development of truly voluntary commodity programs for commercial agriculture, including payments-in-kind out of government-owned surpluses, diversion of unneeded land to conservation uses, price supports free of political manipulation in order to stimulate and attain fair market prices, together with adequate credit facilities and continued support of farmer-owned and operated cooperatives."

By calling upon the talent available among the farmers, we know that a better wheat program can be brought about than the present one. This will be done in carrying out the Platform commitment which states, "we should repeal the Administration's wheat certificate 'bread tax' on consumers, so burdensome to low-income families and overwhelmingly rejected by farmers." This program has become a nightmare under massive mismanagement of the Johnson-Freeman Administration.



Intensive efforts should be directed toward developing greater and more meaningful industrial uses of agricultural products. Scientific research should be stimulated toward the permanent expansion of market opportunities for American foods and fibers

We recognize that the time has come for America to make an economically sound approach to the problems of American agriculture. Our great farm productive capacity is a blessing -- not a liability. Creative approaches to the wise utilization of this capacity and to aiding our farmers and ranchers to attain incomes to match their contribution to society will be developed.

The Republican Party offers farmers a clearcut choice between programs based on faith in the individual, faith in the competitive enterprise system, and faith in limited government -- as contrasted to programs based on increased government intervention and centralized management of American agriculture.